

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1099

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Major General Frederick H. Forster upon his receipt of Leadership Blount's Community Leadership Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Major General Fred Forster, who, on April 18, 2008, will justly receive the Community Leadership Award, given each year by Leadership Blount in recognition of an individual's impact within the community; and

WHEREAS, General Forster earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from The University of the South in 1968 and, in 1972, gained a Master of Science degree in Foundations of Education from Troy State University; and

WHEREAS, having received his commission through his participation in the Reserve Officer Training Corps during his time at The University of the South, General Forster entered the United States Air Force in September of 1968; the date marked the beginning of a notable and honorable career in the military; and

WHEREAS, during eight years of active duty in the Air Force, Fred Forster served as a T-38 instructor pilot, served on a joint staff as an operations plans manager at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand, and rendered sterling service as a KC-135 pilot and instructor pilot; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1976, he joined the Tennessee Air National Guard; following assignments as a group plans officer and an aircraft maintenance officer, General Forster was assigned command of the 134th Air Refueling Group in December of 1987; the Group was later designated as a Wing, and General Forster was promoted to Brigadier General in 1998; and

WHEREAS, from 1998 until 2002, General Forster stood as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Tennessee Air National Guard; in 2002, he assumed the duties of the Assistant Adjutant General, Air, a position he held until his retirement from the armed services in May of 2003; and

WHEREAS, supportive of the importance of self-improvement, General Forster attended a number of schools and colleges during his career, participating in the Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Army Command General Staff College, Air War College, The Senior Seminar, and the United States Chamber Institute for Organizational Management; and

WHEREAS, a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours of flight experience, General Forster accumulated a breadth of experience while flying the T-42, the T-37, the T-38, the EB-66, the T-39, The KC-135A, and the KC-135E; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious military career, General Forster was named as the recipient of numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the SA and K forms of the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Tennessee Distinguished Service Ribbon, the Tennessee Commendation Medal, and a Tennessee Distinguished Unit Commendation, among many others; and

WHEREAS, General Forster is wholly dedicated to the ideals of civic and community involvement, and holds positions of leadership in several organizations. He currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Blount Partnership, which consists of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Development Board, the Smoky Mountain Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Blount County Chamber Foundation, and has rendered commendable services as a member of the Board of Directors and President of Technology 2020, as the Co-Chairperson of Nine Counties, One Vision, as a member of the Board of Directors of the East Tennessee Economic Development Agency, as a member of the National Advisory Committee of Maryville College, as a member of the Board of Commissioners for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, as Chairman of the Tremont Board of Directors,

and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives; and

WHEREAS, in the past, General Forster lent his invaluable expertise and abilities to a number of other civic and community organizations, including the Blount Memorial Hospital Foundation, the Maryville-Alcoa Blount County Recreation and Parks Commission, the Dogwood Arts Festival of Knoxville, the Regional Board of Directors of the Bank of East Tennessee, and United Way of Blount County, among many others; and

WHEREAS, he is also a proud member of the National Guard Association of Tennessee, the Air Force Association, the Kiwanis Club of Alcoa, Alpha Tau Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa, Blue Key, and Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Maryville; a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and a past member of the Knoxville Civitan Club; and

WHEREAS, General Forster has been awarded by several organizations for his dedicated service; he was chosen as the Great Smoky Mountain Council's Citizen of the Year in 1992, garnered the Community Service Award from the Volunteer Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America in 2000, and gained the Silver Beaver Award, again from the Great Smoky Mountain Council, in 2007; and

WHEREAS, General Fred Forster epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, General Forster is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Carolyn; his two daughters and son-in-law, Rebecca Forster and Joy and Will Carver; and his grandson, Drew Carver; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud General Fred Forster for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Major General Frederick H. Forster on his receipt of Leadership Blount's Community Leadership Award, applaud his many years of

service to his community, this State, and these United States of America, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.